

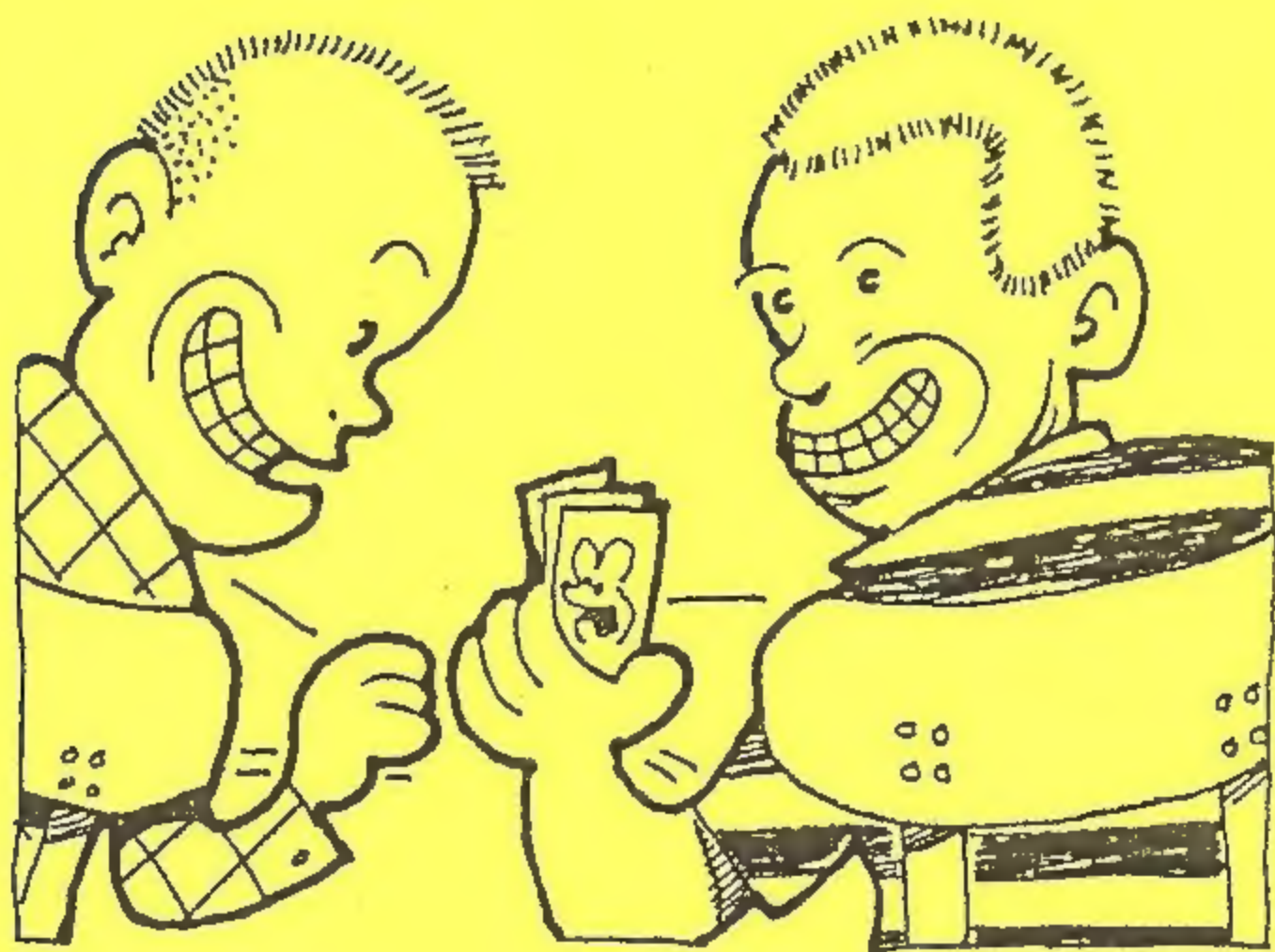
MUSICAL CHAIRS



BACK IN THE 1960'S THERE WAS A
CARTOONIST I'LL CALL "BIG POPPA
ROSS," AND HE CREATED A CERTAIN
BUG-EYED RODENT AND OTHER
SLOBBERING CREATURES WHO DROVE
CUSTOM HOT RODS.



IN THOSE PRE-UNDERGROUND
COMIX DAYS, THE ART OF "BIG
POPPA" WAS A FORBIDDEN TREAT.
IT WAS UGLY. IT WAS WILD.
WE LOVED IT.



ONE DAY OUR TEACHER CONFISCATED
SOME "BIG POPPA" TRADING
CARDS...

WHAT IS THIS?!



AND THIS IS WHAT SHE TOLD US:

IN NEW YORK CITY, TUCKED
AWAY IN TALL BUILDINGS, THERE
ARE THIN, PALE MEN WITH SICK
MINDS WHO DRAW THIS JUNK IN
ORDER TO ROT YOUR LITTLE
BRAINS!!!!



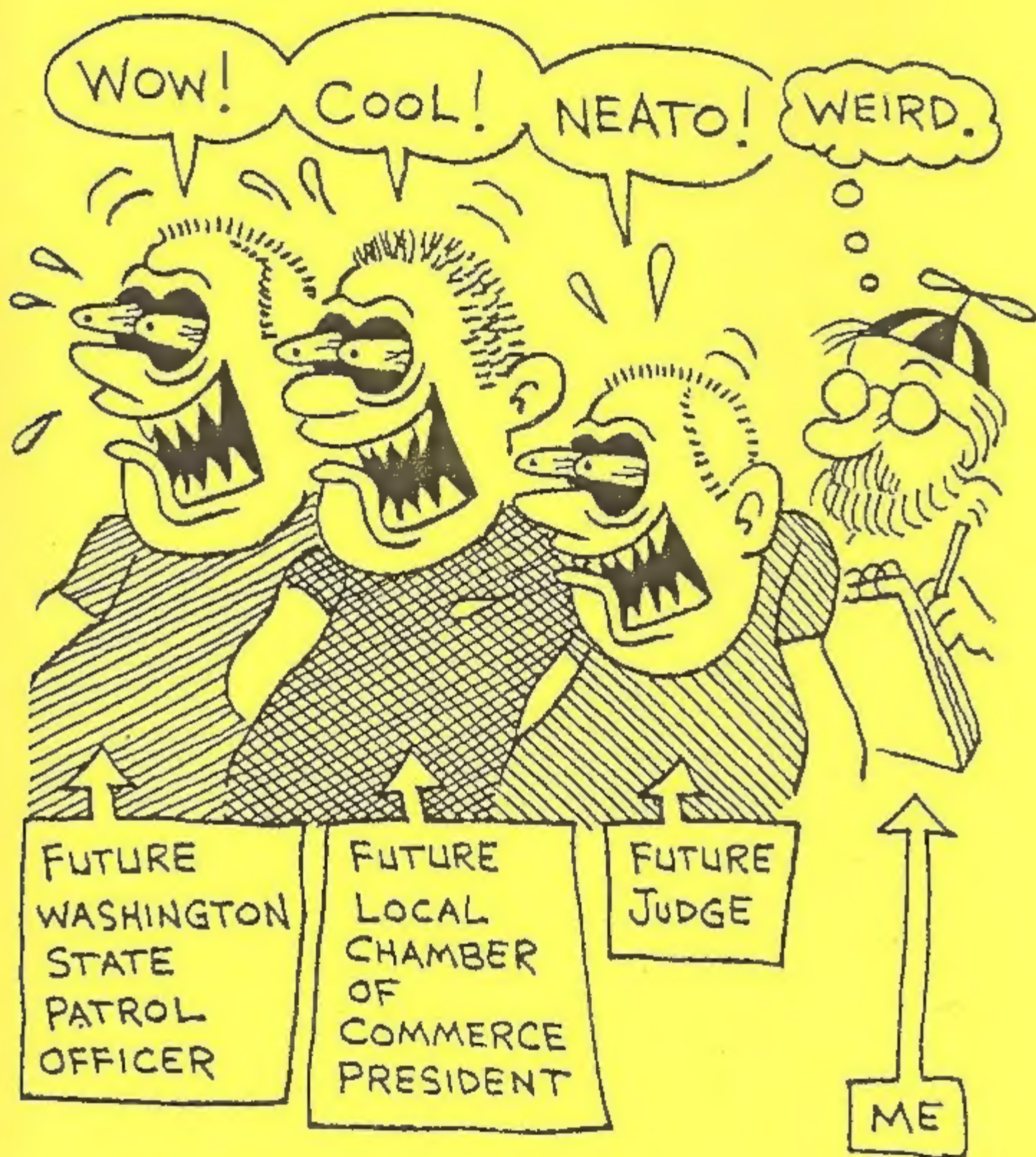
"NEW YORK CITY." SHE LITTERED IT IN A TONE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR A PLACE LIKE "SATAN'S CESSPOOL." BUT THEN SHE ADDED THE GRAND FINALE, THE COLD WAR BATTLE CRY...

THIS, CHILDREN, IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY!!



I'M NOT KIDDING.
SHE REALLY SAID ALL OF THIS.

AND, OF COURSE, BEING BOYS, WE
REACTED ACCORDINGLY...



"BIG POPPA" HAD A DEFINITE
INFLUENCE ON MY OWN ART. MY
DELIGHTFUL CHARACTER, MUKEY THE
MUTANT MEMBRANE, FIRST CREATED
AROUND 1972, STEPPED THROUGH A
DOOR "BIG POPPA" HELPED OPEN.



BY THE EARLY 1980'S I WAS ENJOYING A TINY SLICE OF ATTENTION FOR MY "MORTY THE DOG" CHARACTER WITHIN THE POST-UNDERGROUND "NEWAVE" COMIX MOVEMENT. STARHEAD COMIX, IN SEATTLE, DISTRIBUTED SOME OF MY WORK.



A FEW YEARS LATER, STARHEAD TRACKED DOWN "BIG POPPA" AND COAXED HIM OUT OF RETIREMENT. BUT IN SURVEYING STARHEAD'S OTHER TITLES, "BIG POPPA" REPORTEDLY SAID:

I DON'T WANT MY KIDS READING THOSE MORTY THE DOG COMIX!



IRONIC, HUH?



CUT THAT OUT!



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